

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 16-18 and 20-22 are currently amended and claims 10-15 and 19 are canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-9, 16-18 and 20-22 are pending, and claims 10-15 and 19 have been canceled.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended to overcome the objection noted by the examiner.

Claims 1-3 and 5-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi (US 6,367,833). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the electronic shift control apparatus is for a bicycle having a front transmission with a plurality of front speed stages. The apparatus includes a restriction selecting unit and a restricting unit, wherein the restriction selecting unit is operable by a user to select a restricted front speed stage represented by at least one of the plurality of front speed stages, and the restricting unit prevents a shift unit from providing signals to shift the front transmission to the restricted front speed stage.

Horiuchi discloses an automatic shifting control device for a bicycle. The bicycle includes front and rear shifting devices (36) and (38). However, as stated at column 5, lines 17-20, a first shift switch (66) manually controls front shifting device (36). Front shifting device (36) is not automatically controlled, and no front gears are restricted. A second shift switch (68) controls the operation of rear shifting device (38), and switch (68) also may be used to select contiguous rear gear ranges. Regardless, Horiuchi neither discloses nor suggests restricting front speed stages as recited in amended claim 1.

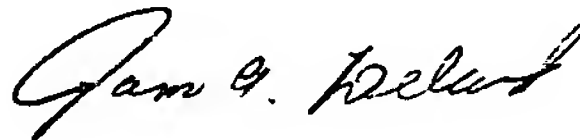
Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horiuchi in view of Fujii, et al (US 2003/0001357). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

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Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101, §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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